

SUPPORT FOR THE AMENDMENTS

The amendments to the claims are supported by the specification. Accordingly, no new matter is believed to have been added to the present application by the amendments submitted above.

REMARKS

Claims 1, 4-15 and 18-23 are pending. Favorable reconsideration is respectfully requested.

The present invention relates to a polychloroprene latex composition obtained by emulsion polymerization of chloroprene alone or chloroprene and a monomer copolymerizable with chloroprene, in the presence of a polyvinyl alcohol and a polyoxyethylene alkyl ether,

where the mass ratio of the polyvinyl alcohol to the polyoxyethylene alkyl ether is 50/50 to 1/99. See Claim 1.

The rejections of the claims under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) over Yashima, Satoh et al. or Nagasawa et al. is respectfully traversed. None of these reference disclose the claimed latex composition, because they each fail to disclose emulsion polymerization in the presence of a polyoxyethylene alkyl ether and the specified mass ratio of the the polyvinyl alcohol to the polyoxyethylene alkyl ether.

In view of the foregoing, Yashima, Satoh et al. and Nagasawa et al. fail to disclose the subject matter of the pending claims. Accordingly, the pending claims are not anticipated by any of these references. Withdrawal of these grounds of rejection is respectfully requested.

The rejection of the claims under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Satoh et al. or Nagasawa et al. in combination with Lenney is respectfully traversed. The cited references fail to suggest the claimed latex composition.

As recognized by the Examiner, Satoh et al. and Nagasawa et al. both fail to disclose a polyoxyethylene alkyl ether. See the Office Action at page 3, bottom. There is no suggestion in the cited references which would have motivated one to perform emulsion polymerization in the presence of a polyoxyethylene alkyl ether and the specified mass ratio of the polyvinyl alcohol to the polyoxyethylene alkyl ether, as claimed.

For that reason, the combination of Satoh et al. or Nagasawa et al. and Lenney fails to suggest the claimed latex composition. Accordingly, the subject matter of the pending claims is not obvious over the cited references. Withdrawal of this ground of rejection is respectfully requested.

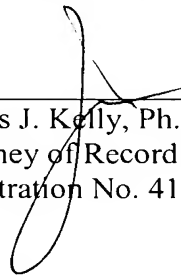
Applicants submit that the present application is in condition for allowance. Early notice to this effect is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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